

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

- 1.-2. Canceled.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the step of causing the stent to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the ~~and~~ therapeutic includes spraying the supercritical fluid and therapeutic at the stent.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the step of causing the stent to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the ~~and~~ therapeutic includes exposing the stent to a bath of supercritical fluid and therapeutic.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the therapeutic substantially dissolves in the supercritical fluid.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the therapeutic is colloidally suspended in the supercritical fluid.
- 7.-8. Canceled.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a stent comprising:
precoating the stent with a swellable carrier coating;
providing a supercritical fluid carrying a therapeutic;
causing the stent, precoated with the swellable carrier coating, to be in contact with the supercritical fluid and therapeutic, thereby causing the swellable carrier coating to swell and to absorb therapeutic;
~~The method of claim 33 further comprising:~~
collecting the supercritical fluid after transferring the therapeutic from the supercritical fluid to the stent; and

removing residual therapeutic from the supercritical fluid after collecting the supercritical fluid.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the supercritical fluid is supercritical carbon dioxide and the therapeutic is paclitaxel.

11. Canceled.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a medical device comprising:
coating the medical device;
interfacing a therapeutic with a supercritical fluid; and
swelling the coating on the medical device with a supercritical fluid devoid of coating
prior to exposing the coating on the coated medical device to the supercritical fluid that has been interfaced with the therapeutic.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein exposing the coating to the supercritical fluid includes spraying the supercritical fluid at the medical device.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein exposing the coating to the supercritical fluid includes flooding a coating chamber with the supercritical fluid after the therapeutic has been interfaced with the supercritical fluid.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein:
swelling the coating includes exposing the coating to a bath of supercritical fluid.

16-27. Canceled.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein ~~the~~ supercritical fluid is sprayed through a nozzle.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising:

manipulating a nozzle to change the direction in which supercritical fluid is directed towards the stent.

30. Canceled.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 further comprising:
increasing the rate in which supercritical fluid enters the chamber containing the stent by applying a vacuum force to the chamber.

32. Canceled.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a stent comprising:
precoating the stent with a swellable carrier coating;
swelling the carrier coating with a supercritical fluid devoid of coating prior to providing
a supercritical fluid carrying a therapeutic;
causing the stent, precoated with the swellable carrier coating, to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the and therapeutic, ~~thereby causing the swellable carrier coating to swell and to absorb therapeutic.~~

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of causing the stent to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the and therapeutic includes placing the stent in a chamber and injecting the supercritical fluid carrying the and therapeutic into the chamber.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein at least one ~~the~~ supercritical fluid is supercritical carbon dioxide.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the therapeutic is paclitaxel.